Attorney Matt Murdock is blind, but his other four senses function with superhuman sharpness to form a radar ability. With amazing fighting skills, he stalks the streets at night in relentless pursuit of justice as

Daredevil, the Man Without Fear!

Previously in Daredevil...

It's been a difficult time for the Man Without Fear.

First, attorney Matt Murdock was "outed" by the New York press as the masked hero, Daredevil. Murdock denied the allegations, but was eventually arrested and incarcerated in Ryker's Island, until a full-scale riot gave him the chance to escape.

Following clues, Matt traveled to Europe, encountering a Malia heiress named Lily Lucca. Lily seemed to possess a remarkable power: the ability to make any man fall in love with her. But Matt fought through her deceptions, and traced them back to the person pulling the strings of his hellish downfall: Vanessa Fisk, the wife of his arch-nemesis, Wilson Fisk -- a.k.a. the Kingpin. In one final blow, the terminally ill woman offered Daredevil a Faustian pact: she would clear his name in the eyes of the law and the public if he freed Fisk from prison. But Daredevil refused the deal, and returned to New York...to discover that Vanessa had cleared his name anyway. Holding up his end of the devil's bargain, Matt secured Fisk's release on the condition that he leave the country.

Now, after a tumultuous year, Matt Murdock has finally returned to Hell's Kitchen as Daredevil, only to discover that the streets are bloodier and more violent than ever -- someone is trying to take the Kingpin's place.

Meanwhile, Matt's old friend and former enemy, Melvin Potter, a.k.a. the Gladiator, is losing control. The reformed super-villain, now as gentle as a kitten, apparently snapped and committed two grisly murders. Matt's legal partner, Becky Blake, agrees to take Melvin's case as a favor to a friend, but Matt is wary -- he wants to stay away from known associates of Daredevil, even though he thinks Melvin's being set up. Or is he? Melvin's just been transferred to the mental hospital when he brutally murders two more people...

To The Devil, His Due

Part Two of Five

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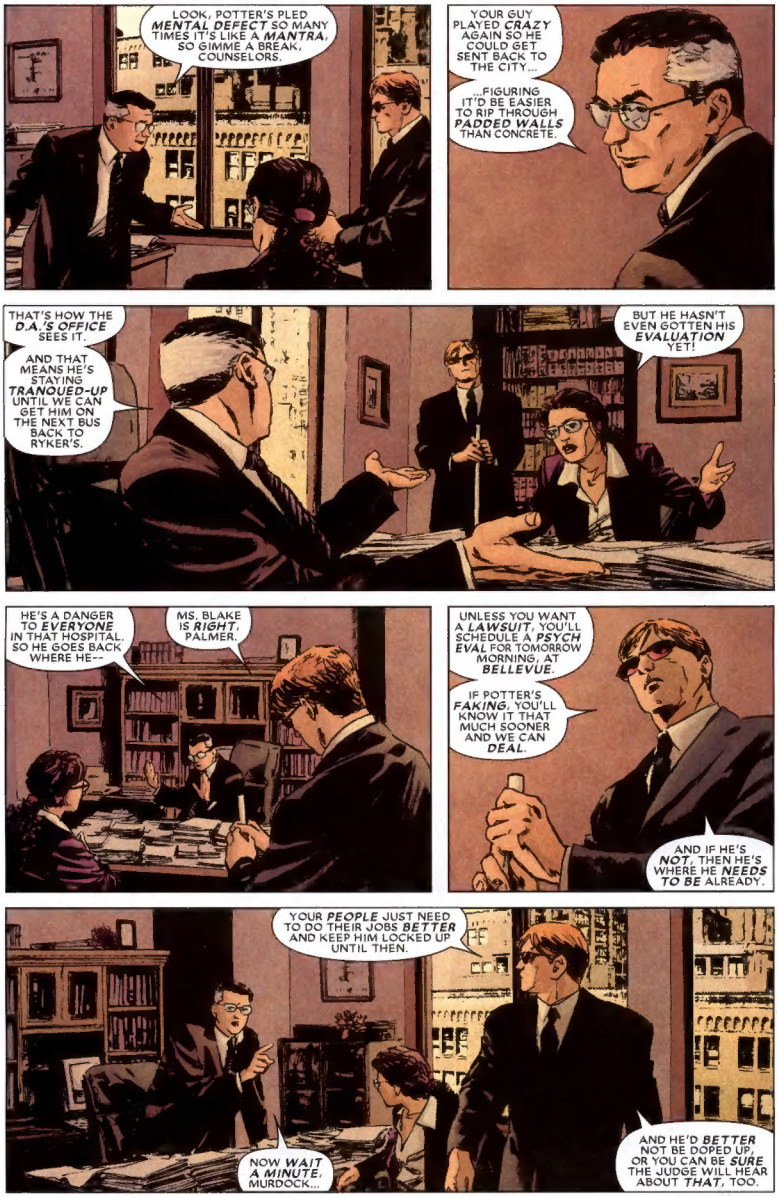
WHAT DO YOU EXPECT ME TO DO?
DAILY BUGLE
Arbema cuts deal with federal investigators
GLADIATOR KILLS TWO IN BELLEVUE RAMPAGE
JUST TELL ME THAT... WHAT THE HELL DO YOU EXPECT, MURDOCK?
POTTER KILLED ANOTHER INMATE AND A GUARD IN AN ESCAPE ATTEMPT.
HE WASN'T TRYING TO ESCAPE.
MELVIN ISN'T THAT CALCULATING, PALMER.
HE'S GOT MENTAL PROBLEMS, YES, BUT HE'S NOT A PLANNER.
AND HE SWEARS HE DIDN'T DO IT.
HE...HE MUST'VE HAD SOME KIND OF A MENTAL BREAK.
YEAH, RIGHT...A VERY CONVENIENTLY TIMED ONE.
NO, THIS IS DIFFERENT.
MELVIN POTTER HAS NEVER DENIED THE GLADIATOR'S ACTIONS.


LOOK, POTTER'S PLED *MENTAL DEFECT* SO MANY TIMES IT'S LIKE A *MANTRA*, SO GIMME A BREAK, COUNSELORS.
YOUR GUY PLAYED *CRAZY* AGAIN SO HE COULD GET SENT BACK TO THE CITY...
...FIGURING IT'D BE EASIER TO RIP THROUGH *PADDED WALLS* THAN CONCRETE.
THAT'S HOW THE *D.A.'S OFFICE* SEES IT.
AND THAT MEANS HE'S STAYING *TRANQUED-UP* UNTIL WE CAN GET HIM ON THE NEXT BUS BACK TO RYKER'S.
BUT HE HASN'T EVEN GOTTEN HIS *EVALUATION* YET!
HE'S A DANGER TO *EVERYONE* IN THAT HOSPITAL. SO HE GOES BACK WHERE HE--
MS. BLAKE IS *RIGHT*, PALMER.
UNLESS YOU WANT A *LAWSUIT*, YOU'LL SCHEDULE A *PSYCH EVAL* FOR TOMORROW MORNING, AT *BELLEVUE*.
IF POTTER'S *FAKING*, YOU'LL KNOW IT THAT MUCH SOONER AND WE CAN *DEAL*.
AND IF HE'S *NOT*, THEN HE'S WHERE HE *NEEDS TO BE* ALREADY.
YOUR *PEOPLE* JUST NEED TO DO THEIR JOBS *BETTER* AND KEEP HIM LOCKED UP UNTIL THEN.
NOW *WAIT A MINUTE*, MURDOCK...
AND HE'D *BETTER* NOT BE DOPED UP, OR YOU CAN BE *SURE* THE JUDGE WILL HEAR ABOUT *THAT*, TOO.

MATT...
NOT HERE.
MATT...

IN *HERE*. THERE'S NO *LISTENING DEVICES* HERE.

I'M *SORRY*, MATT...
I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON, BUT I'M SORRY I DRAGGED *YOU* INTO THIS.
HE *DID* IT. THAT'S WHAT'S GOING ON.

MELVIN POTTER *KILLED* THOSE MEN, AND HE'S *DENYING* IT LIKE ANY *OTHER* CRIMINAL WOULD.
I KNOW THAT'S WHAT IT *LOOKS LIKE*... BUT I DON'T KNOW.

COULD HE HAVE HAD A *COMPLETE BREAK* LIKE THIS?
COULD HIS TIME AT RYKER'S HAVE PUSHED HIM *THAT FAR?*

MAYBE. IT'S NOT A PLACE YOU WANT TO SPEND ANY TIME.
BUT IF MELVIN'S DEVELOPED AN EVEN *MORE DANGEROUS* PERSONALITY DISORDER, I'M AFRAID THERE'S NOT MUCH WE CAN DO.

YEAH, I KNOW. BUT WHAT IF...WHAT IF HE'S STILL TELLING THE *TRUTH?*
WHAT IF HE'S BEING *SET UP?*

But the question is... was he scared of himself...

...or is there an angle I'm not considering?

Is there someone who has it in for Melvin who can walk through walls...or turn invisible?
Melvin is the only living witness to either of these attacks, so...

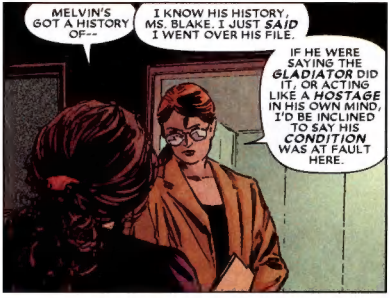
...is there some way that Becky can be right? My gut says there isn't.

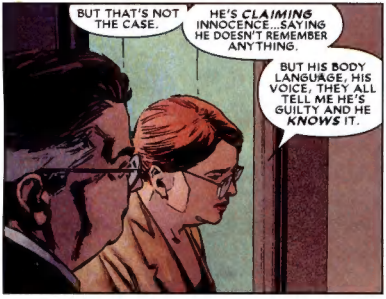
I just pray that whoever the D.A. gets to examine him tomorrow knows what they're doing.

--THEN ARE YOU SUGGESTING THAT SOMEBODY ELSE WAS IN THAT STAIRWELL WITH YOU, MELVIN?
I DON'T... I DON'T KNOW.
WHAT DID YOU THINK, WHEN YOU SAW THOSE MEN HAD BEEN KILLED?
THAT I WAS IN TROUBLE.
SO YOU FELT GUILTY?
NO. I FELT LIKE I WAS GONNA GET BLAMED...
YOU SAY YOU HAVE NO MEMORY OF THE EVENT, BUT DO YOU THINK KILLING THESE MEN WAS WRONG, MELVIN?
KILLING IS WRONG.
I KNOW THAT.
THAT'S TRUE. SO...DO YOU THINK IT'S POSSIBLE THAT YOU KILLED THESE MEN?
I...NO...
YOU'VE KILLED BEFORE. ISN'T IT POSSIBLE YOU'RE JUST BLOCKING THIS OUT?
ISN'T THAT JUST POSSIBLE?
BUT...I DIDN'T...I DIDN'T.

SO, WHAT DO YOU *THINK*, DR. DEVAREAUX?
IT'S HARD TO SAY FROM JUST ONE SESSION, BUT HAVING GONE OVER HIS FILE...
AND CONSIDERING MY EXPERIENCE WITH HIS PSYCHOSIS...I'D SAY HE'S *LYING*...

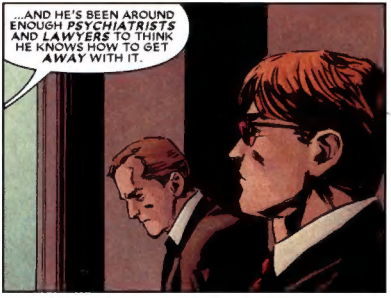
HE'S FAKING IT.
AND NOT VERY WELL.
YOU CAN'T JUST JUMP TO CONCLUSIONS. THIS IS A *SICK* MAN.

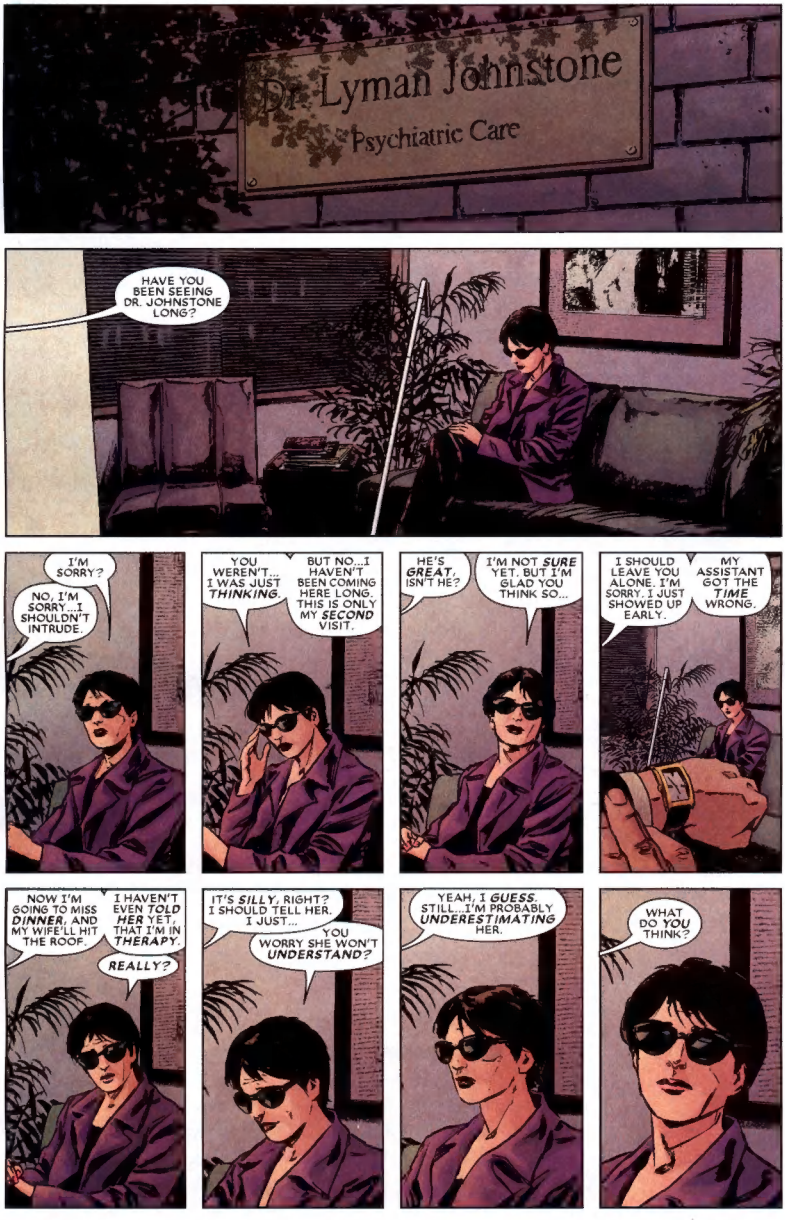

MELVIN'S GOT A HISTORY OF--
I KNOW HIS HISTORY, MS. BLAKE. I JUST *SAID* I WENT OVER HIS FILE.
IF HE WERE SAYING THE *GLADIATOR* DID IT, OR ACTING LIKE A *HOSTAGE* IN HIS OWN MIND, I'D BE INCLINED TO SAY HIS *CONDITION* WAS AT FAULT HERE.


BUT THAT'S NOT THE CASE.
HE'S *CLAIMING* INNOCENCE...SAYING HE DOESN'T REMEMBER ANYTHING.
BUT HIS BODY LANGUAGE, HIS VOICE, THEY ALL TELL ME HE'S GUILTY AND HE *KNOWS* IT.

SO YOU'RE ANALYZING *BODY LANGUAGE* NOW?
HE'S IN *CHAINS*! HOW IS HE SUPPOSED TO ACT?

I'M JUST TELLING IT HOW I SEE IT.
I BELIEVE MELVIN POTTER IS VENTING HIS *ANGER* AT BEING IMPRISONED AND PERSECUTED...


...AND HE'S BEEN AROUND ENOUGH *PSYCHIATRISTS* AND *LAWYERS* TO THINK HE KNOWS HOW TO GET *AWAY* WITH IT.


Dr. Lyman Johnstone
Psychiatric Care
HAVE YOU BEEN SEEING DR. JOHNSTONE LONG?
I'M SORRY?
NO, I'M SORRY...I SHOULDN'T INTRUDE.
YOU WEREN'T... I WAS JUST THINKING.
BUT NO...I HAVEN'T BEEN COMING HERE LONG. THIS IS ONLY MY SECOND VISIT.
HE'S GREAT, ISN'T HE?
I'M NOT SURE YET. BUT I'M GLAD YOU THINK SO...
I SHOULD LEAVE YOU ALONE. I'M SORRY. I JUST SHOWED UP EARLY.
MY ASSISTANT GOT THE TIME WRONG.
NOW I'M GOING TO MISS DINNER, AND MY WIFE'LL HIT THE ROOF.
I HAVEN'T EVEN TOLD HER YET, THAT I'M IN THERAPY.
REALLY?
IT'S SILLY, RIGHT? I SHOULD TELL HER. I JUST...
YOU WORRY SHE WON'T UNDERSTAND?
YEAH, I GUESS. STILL...I'M PROBABLY UNDERESTIMATING HER.
WHAT DO YOU THINK?

None of the men in those cars has said a word since I spotted them.
So they're expecting me.
BOOOM!
Bulletproof glass won't stop an assault shotgun at point-blank range.
Neither will flesh and bone.
GUKK... GU...
JIMMY! JIMM--
SKKRRASHHHH

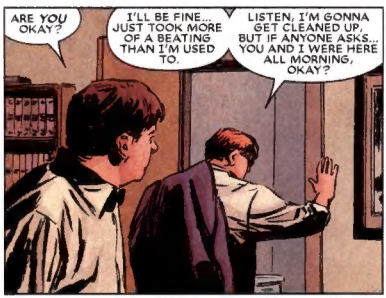
Idiot!
I knew they were expecting me.
NOT SO HOT NOW, DEVIL-- ARE YA?!
UHN!
I MAY BE HURT, BUT YOU SHOULD NEVER...
...GET CLOSE TO ME.
KRAK
My ears are still screaming, my radar all over the map...
...when Melvin joins the party...
ALL RIGHT, WE GOT HIM! LET'S GO!
...LIARS... LIARS...

LIARS!
KNNCH
HEY--
KRAKK
#@%$ING LIARS!
MELVIN... LISTEN TO ME...
YOU NEED TO--
SHUT UP!
YOU'RE A LIAR, TOO!
WHMMP
OOOFF!
BELLEVUE INMATE
I KNOW YOU HATE ME!
SMAKK

FOGGY...

OH MY GOD, MATT, WHAT HAPPENED?
MELVIN'S GONE...HE WAS SPRUNG, BUT HE...
HE'S JUST GONE.

HE'S NOT OUR MELVIN ANYMORE, FOG...


ARE YOU OKAY?
I'LL BE FINE... JUST TOOK MORE OF A BEATING THAN I'M USED TO.
LISTEN, I'M GONNA GET CLEANED UP, BUT IF ANYONE ASKS... YOU AND I WERE HERE ALL MORNING, OKAY?

OF COURSE, MATT...WE WERE GOING OVER THE DEPOS ON THE SIMMONS CASE.
YEAH... EXACTLY...

EXCUSE ME...

...BUT, THIS *IS* MATT MURDOCK'S OFFICE, ISN'T IT?

UH...YES, IT IS. I'M HIS *PARTNER*, FRANKLIN NELSON.
NICE TO MEET YOU, I'M LILY...
LILY LUCCA.

YOU KNOW, I HAD QUITE A TIME *FINDING* YOUR OFFICES. YOU'RE NOT IN THE BOOK.
THAT'S SORT OF THE *IDEA*, MS. LUCCA.
I'M SORRY, CAN I GET YOU *ANYTHING*? COFFEE?

I'D JUST LIKE TO SPEAK WITH--
LILY.

WHAT THE HELL ARE *YOU* DOING HERE?

GET OUT, *RIGHT NOW*.
MATT! HEY!
WAIT A SECOND. IT'S NOT *LIKE* THAT...

I NEED YOUR *HELP*, MATT.
I'M IN TROUBLE.

...REMEMBER... REMEMBER WHO YOUR *FRIENDS* ARE...REMEMBER THE WAY...
...REMEMBER THE WAY... *REMEMBER*...
REMEMBER THE *GLADIATOR*.
BELLEVUE
TO BE CONTINUED . . .